



New face of androgyny



Andrej Pejic turned heads at fashion shows in Paris and Milan earlier this year, making gender-ambiguity the new look.

Now the trend of male models being used to exhibit womenswear is coming to Beijing.

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Shop brings letterpress back to China

As a type lover, Josh Durham was shocked to learn China's only remaining letterpress machines are the property of museums.

Now he and his wife are bringing the technology back to its home with their new store: the capital's first traditional printing mill.



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Canadian singer makes Chinese rock charts

Ember Swift, called Zi Yu in Chinese, was shocked to learn that her latest songs made the rock charts not in her native Canada, but in China.

Couple quits
jobs to save
the planet

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Taxis urged
to honor
reservations

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Guo Pei joins
Belgians for
new art show

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Town's spirit
lost in reloca-
tion

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Party leaders prescribe cultural therapy for nation

At a meeting last week regarding the nation's cultural development, the Communist Party of China (CPC) issued a communique emphasizing the role of culture in boosting national strength and maintaining national cultural security.

"Cultural development must be prioritized in China's overall work, as the country has come to a critical period for deepening economic reform and transforming economic development patterns," the communique said.

The past few days have seen domestic media serving up stories about a blueprint for such cultural development. Provincial governments and ministries are vying to map out policies that will support the cultural industry.

However, Peng Lin, a professor at Tsinghua University, worries that the governing party's ambition for rejuvenating Chinese culture and fostering China's "cultural soul" might be reduced to a

simple boost for the industry.

"To rejuvenate Chinese culture, we should start by improving people's morality and addressing the social ills triggered by the national frenzy for getting rich quickly, especially the problems of money-worshipping, business fraud and a lack of credibility," Peng said.

Professor Zhou Ximing from the Party School of the CPC Central Committee said that China has remained spiritually immature, although it has become wealthier and shaken off the mocking title of "Asia's weakling" after pursuing modernity for more than 100 years.

A debate regarding China's supposed moral decline was ignited last week after a two-year-old girl was run over by two vans in succession on a market street. Eighteen pedestrians and cyclists ignored her until a migrant woman collecting trash pulled her to the side of the road.

The girl died in a hospital last Friday.

"The morals and values of an individual develop from society. If individuals believe that society values the pursuit of wealth and power through wrongdoings, such as corruption, profiteering and deceit, then individuals will fail to maintain high morals," Zhou said.

Tu Keguo, director of the Cultural Research Institute of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, said that he views China's supposed moral decline as a "desperate disease" that needs an equally desperate remedy.

Therapy for hearts and minds

As morals concern the spiritual state of an individual, Tu said that China's governing party must "prescribe a therapy that is able to touch people's hearts and minds."

Tu said the "core values of socialist China" mentioned in the communique must "go beyond ideological definitions to embody the essence of ancient Chinese civilization."

"Benevolence, righteousness, modesty and credibility are virtues advocated by Confucius more than 2,000 years ago. Their significance to modern China should not be denied simply because they were proposed in feudal times," Tu said.

When Chinese sought to defend national independence and modernity during foreign invasion nearly a century ago, Confucianism was almost entirely repudiated. The writing system of the language was almost abandoned as well, having been denounced as a "carrier of feudal dross" that must be replaced by a new Chinese language based on Latin glyphs.

During the 10-year Cultural Revolution ending in 1976, Marxism was hailed as the peak of the human civilization, and incompatible with existing culture.

"Chinese people should avoid denying their history at this critical period and look to their 5,000-year-old civi-

lization for the seeds of new development," Zhou said.

"The problem facing us now is a prevalent unfamiliarity among Chinese toward traditional culture," Tu said.

Although the classics are becoming more popular, experts have said that prevailing economic attitudes have relegated these tomes of ancient wisdom to simple profit-making tools.

The ancient *Book of Changes* explains ancient cosmological beliefs and an understanding of how the universe operates. It has been used by many as a divination tool to aid investors, while the classic tale *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is often used by those who seek to use "power tactics" in business negotiations, Peng said.

"To rejuvenate the world's only uninterrupted civilization, the CPC must face its obligations, foster values that warm people's hearts and internalize them into people's minds," Zhou said. (Xinhua)

Regulation halts rental groups' 'designated driver' service

By Zhao Hongyi

The Legal Affairs Office of the Beijing government is drafting a new regulation to prohibit car rental agencies from offering "designated driver" services – a business that has put them in direct competition with taxis.

Car rental agencies have prospered in Beijing the last several years, with 35 companies operating a fleet of 50,000 vehicles.

To compete in the business, many car rental agencies have been offering "designated driver" services.

The draft would prohibit this business by redefining car rental as "the offering of a vehicle to a trusted party for use based on a signed contract."

According to the text of the regulation, the ban is intended to prevent an escalating war between private rental cars, taxis and public transportation. Violators who continue to offer designated driver services would be fined 500 to 1,000 yuan for each infringement.

"The new regulation emphasizes that rental agen-



Car rental agencies are being prohibited from providing "designated driver" services.

cies cannot provide drivers and assigns suitable penalties," said Fan Yongyao, vice chairman of Beijing Vehicle Leasing Association.

"However, the draft leaves a window whereby such business could be operated by a third party," he added. "This means that independent companies already reg-

istered in the capital can continue to operate designated driver services."

The draft also aims to control the increasing number of minibuses by limiting the use of such vehicles with fewer than nine seats in the downtown area. The limit is designed to combat traffic jams and air pollution, and

to avoid competition with the city's public bus network.

The regulation further defines how minibuses and vans with more than nine seats can be operated, exempting the vehicles from plate restrictions.

Many rental agencies provide such minibuses to business who rely on their regular use.

The biggest change in the new regulation is the redefining of vehicle rental agencies as an extension of the city's public transportation system.

"This indicates that the government will quite probably include the rental sector into the public transportation system under its management, possibly favoring them with vehicle plates and reduced taxation," Fan said.

Rental cars are currently considered private vehicles and are subject to plate restrictions.

On March 15, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on the chaos in the rental market and the incredibly high profits in the sector.

The new regulations may be intended to reform the sector and ensure its sustainable development.

"I don't know what the situation inside the companies is where these new regulations were needed, but I hope to see car rental becoming more popular, cheap and simple," said Yang Jinwen, a Beijing resident.

Rich Chinese flock overseas

By Han Manman

The staggering investments that China's millionaires are making abroad may have little to do with good business.

Experts say "investment immigration" is becoming a growing trend on the mainland, and that many foreign countries are openly courting the fortunes of the country's millionaires in exchange for fast-track citizenship or visas.

With the US housing market struggling to recover from the sub-prime mortgage crisis, a bill submitted by two US senators last Friday proposed opening the country to

foreign nationals who spend at least \$500,000 on residential property to obtain visas granting long-term residency.

While the US is already a popular market for China's property investors, the new bill could prompt more rich Chinese to move their fortunes abroad and lay the foundations for residency.

"I'm considering the possibility to buy real estate in the US, so I can take my wife and daughter to live there, and let my 10-year-old daughter receive education in the US," said Xu Yongping, who owns a construction company in Beijing.

While the new bill would

not assist them in getting a green card, their US property holdings would expedite their citizenship procedures.

China's millionaires have shown a strong desire to emigrate. According to a latest report by China Merchants Bank and US consultants Bain & Co., among the 20,000 Chinese with at least 100 million yuan in individual investment assets, 27 percent have already emigrated and 47 percent are considering it.

Nearly 60 percent of the people surveyed said they would move abroad to guarantee a better education for their children. Other top motivators were asset protection

and retirement.

The report said "investment immigration" is becoming a trend on the mainland, citing the 73 percent compound annual growth in the rate of investors emigrating to the US during the past five years.

"The emigration of China's rich will cause a wealth drain and damage the country's economy in the long term," said Zheng Yongnian, director of the East Asian Institute at National University of Singapore.

Zheng said China has been working hard to develop its economy during the past 30 years, but now

the rich are fleeing with the fruits of that labor. The loss could be even higher than all foreign investment China has received to date.

The phenomenon has also been noticed by the economist Wu Xiaobo.

"We need to think about how to make rich people want to leave their money in China. We have to further open our market economy so that they feel their personal assets are secure," Wu said.

He encouraged passing reforms that would allow the rich to invest in the financial and energy industries, which currently remain the sole domain of the State.

Founder Type hires beggar for font design

By Chu Meng

Cui Xianren was severely injured several years ago by an explosion. Today the 49-year-old earns money by doing chalk calligraphy on the streets of Qingdao, Shandong Province.

That may change thanks to his discovery by Founder Type.

The popular Chinese typeface company licensed Cui's handwriting for its new "Xianren" font, announced last week-end in Qingdao.

According to the contract, Founder will pay Cui 50,000 yuan in advance to write 1,000 characters during the first phase of development. He will also receive royalties from the font library for the next 50 years after the font becomes available for sale.

"The 'Xianren' font is expected to have great potential in advertising and packaging. His calligraphy looks antique and elegant, and is very distinct from the usual designs we see from professionals," said Wang Haichao, director of Founder's marketing and sales.

Wang said the font will have both a free version for personal use and a commercial version for business clients.

"If only one big magazine licenses the use of the font for one year, that would bring in about 2,000 yuan," Wang said. "The royalties Cui will receive during the next 50 years may entirely change his life and ensure him a steady income."

Since signing the contract, Cui is off the streets for the first time in seven years. He will be working with the company to standardize the form of his characters using professional design tools during the next three months, Qingdao TV reported on Monday.

Each character will be adjusted and digitized by Founder's technicians to ensure they have a stan-

dard width and height when used by computer software. Founder has not announced a planned release date for the new font.

That Cui is able to write such calligraphy is amazing, as his hands were seriously damaged in an explosion 18 years ago.

The 49-year-old found attention for his art after a series of photos of him circulated on popular Chinese microblogs on October 9.

In the photos, Cui wore an old blue shirt, a gray cap and sunglasses to cover his burned face. Using a piece of chalk, he knelt in front of a long strip of dark rubber and began to write.

Netizens called him a master of calligraphy. His colorful strokes, unique style and deformed hands made him a celebrity.

Founder Type tracked him down using photos from the microblog.

"Though there are tens of thousands of beggars on the streets, Cui touched us with his independence and persistence," Wang said. "He has overcome his disability to write beautifully day after day for many years."

Wang said Cui repeatedly rejected the company, saying he was not confident about his calligraphy. He finally accepted the contract after days of persuasion.

But it's not all charity. Getting involved with Cui is a chance for Founder Type to spread its brand.

"The company deliberately selected Cui from among many hot topics on the microblog. It has redirected public attention and curiosity from Cui to itself," said Sonia Ai, an Internet marketing and promotion expert.

"It essentially cost them nothing to boost their reputation and appear as a company that understands its social responsibility."



Cui Xianren is being called a master of calligraphy by netizens who have seen his colorful strokes and unique style.

CFP Photo

News

BEIJING TODAY
Editor: Han Manman Designer: Zhao Yan

Chasing a green dream

Husband and wife dump careers to care for Earth

By Han Manman

Environmental protection and sustainability are pressing subjects for China, where the environment has suffered rapid and irreversible damage due to the development and industrialization.

Many international and domestic NGOs have frequently warned China of the worsening situation and have launched campaigns to educate the public about environmental protection.

One group of individuals, without the distinguished background or commercial support of their NGO peers, is making its own effort to save nature for the next generation. A Taiwanese couple is among them.

A model for an eco community

Grace Tong and Mantow Chow have lived on the mainland for 10 years.

In that short time they have seen China's environment degenerate rapidly. Now they believe it is time to make common people realize how important the environment is and stimulate them to take action for the sake of the next generation.

To inspire people to be more ecologically minded, the couple founded the documentary group called Saving Nature with Harmony several years ago.

Their latest project is a documentary filmed in Findhorn, a small village in Scotland and a role model for sustainable human settlements.

As one of the first Chinese groups to visit the place, Tong and Chow hope their experience can inspire more urban planners and residents to learn about the community's organic food chain, ecological constructions and energy systems, as well as the local residents' sustainable lifestyle.

Two 'fools'

In Taiwan, Tong and Chow are known as "fools" because they gave up fame, status and salary to undertake a public project that has cleaned out their savings.

The 50-year-old Tong was a well-known TV host in Taiwan during the 1980s, a time when Taiwan had only three TV stations. She was also the first to create a news interview program in Taiwan.

At the height of her career, Tong became disillusioned with the direction of the island's profit-oriented media, where programs are selected for their profitability rather than their impact. When increased ratings became the basis for decision making, the media became obsessed with sex, violence and scandals.

"It's hard to find pure in [Taiwan's media]," Tong said.

When she came to view media work as a waste of her life, Tong looked to something more meaningful: the



Tong interviews a worker in Findhorn village, a role model for sustainable human settlements.



Grace Tong and Mantow Chow



Tong and Chow's documentaries focus on the little people who make an effort to save nature.

environment.

Her years of reporting had given her a unique perspective on ecological deterioration – a problem shared by both Taiwan and the mainland. She resolved to do something to save the environment and promote awareness of its plight.

The plan won big support from her husband Chow, even though he knew from experience that it would land them in the poor house.

Popularly known as "Uncle Mantow" (Uncle Bun), Chow was a big name in Taiwanese baseball during the 1990s. Despite being born into a rich family and having flirted with business, Chow became

obsessed with the idea of starting a youth baseball team on the mainland.

Chasing that dream cost him his fortune. He paid to introduce an experienced Taiwanese baseball coach to train the mainland baseball team, which was a very weak performer in the 1990s. He also paid to take the team to Australia to compete in the Baseball Asia Cup in 1993. Although they lost all the games, the players found confidence when they saw their skill level wasn't that far behind their competitors. He also paid to send the national team to the US for a three-month baseball camp and set

up youth baseball teams in Shanghai and in Beijing.

When the dream finally seemed to be making progress, Chow had to abandon everything because he ran out of money.

This time, Chow decided to help his wife fulfill her dream. They moved to the mainland in 2002 with their two sons and started a new life devoted to ecological protection.

Saving nature through documentary

One or two people working alone is hardly enough to create an eco-protection platform in a country as large as China. In order to spread their message, the couple decided to use documentary.

After four years of preparations, Tong and Chow founded Saving Nature with Harmony in 2006 and began scouring the nation for good topics.

Unlike most environmental documentaries, which focus on how dangerous the environment can be when not cared for, "ours focus is on the little people who make an effort to save nature on their own," Tong said.

"We hope their stories can tell Chinese people that they can really do something to

make the environment better," Tong said. "Saving nature is not as difficult as you might imagine."

"We don't have enough money and time to make big works like Discovery, but we can create short vignettes using real examples from real people," Tong said.

Over the years, the couple has covered stories as varied as a lone peasant who set out to save the endangered swans at Swan Lake Nature Reserve in Rongcheng, Shandong, which has become heavily polluted in recent years, and a Taiwanese woman in suburban Beijing who runs an organic farm to set an example for her workers.

In place of commercial funding, many of the couple's documentaries have been funded on the donations of those moved by their previous work.

"We may not be as rich, and we may have to budget carefully and save our money, but this job brings us an inner peace we never had before," Tong said.

She said she hopes that if everyone who sees her documentaries does something small to improve the environment, then future generations in China can inherit a better world.

The Great Wall under threat

Due to widespread neglect, lack of funding and illegal mining, the Great Wall, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is beginning to collapse.

In some areas, as much as 80 percent of the Wall lies in ruins, mostly due to demolition for illegal mining for minerals, the London-based *The Telegraph* reported.

The report cited a series of photographs that show huge holes have been punched through the Wall in some areas.

"There was a regulation to protect the Wall in 2006, but the Wall is so long it is hard to enforce," Dong Waohui, vice-chairman of the Great Wall Association, told *The Telegraph*.

Dong said the Great Wall at Badaling, a tourist spot 60 kilometers northwest of downtown Beijing, is by far the most-visited and best-preserved part.

"People just think of the famous sections and assume that the rest of the Wall is in the same condition," Dong said. "But those areas only make up just over 48 kilometers of the Wall's length."

Construction of the first Great Wall dates back to the Warring States Period around 2,000 years ago, and according to a state-initiated survey in 2009, the Great Wall spans more than 8,850 kilometers, running through 156 counties in 10 provinces of northern China.

(Agencies)



Only a small part of the wall outside Beijing has been carefully maintained, with the rest of the structure left untended.

Qu Binchao/
IC Photo

The third eye

How bad is the situation?

The damaged portion of the Great Wall in question is located in a remote area near the county of Laiyuan in Hebei Province, about 200 kilometers southwest of the capital.

The area is home to a dozen small mines, with some operating as close as 100 meters to the centuries-old wall.

Villagers and local cultural heritage protection officials said that about 700 meters of the wall, which was built during the reign of Emperor Wanli during the Ming Dynasty (1573-1620), had already collapsed, and more walls and even towers are likely to collapse.

"This section of the wall is considered 'the crust of the cream' of the Ming Dynasty Great Wall. It is really a

pity," said Guo Jianyong, a senior engineer with the provincial Ancient Architecture Studies Institute.

Damage to the Great Wall by mining had previously been reported in Inner Mongolia, the main coal reserve region, but the Hebei case suggests the problem might be common across all regions, experts say.

In Hebei, about 20 percent of the walls and towers can be rated "well or fairly preserved," while more than 70 percent have cracks, stand on shaky ground, or are about to collapse, provincial cultural protection officials said.

Zhou Jinjun, a deputy head of Laiyuan's land resources bureau, said the area where the ancient walls stand in

Laiyuan has rich reserves of copper, iron and nickel. Driven by profits, small mines proliferated despite the government ban.

A part of the Great Wall in Hebei's Chongli County was even demolished by a mining company to make way for road construction.

Dong Waohui said the biggest problem is not illegal mining, but simply the fact that there is no regular maintenance.

"Each year, local governments report damage on their stretch of the wall to Beijing and then the central government allocates funding for the worst areas. But this is not maintenance work, this is rescue."

(Xinhua)

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Oil shortage looms

Private gas stations struggle after price cut

October seems to be a marker for an annual oil crisis.

While power shortages and natural disasters were to blame for prior years, this year's shortfall appears to be "man-made": China's top two oil giants PetroChina and Sinopec are allegedly hoarding oil.

With thousands of private gas stations searching the country for supplies and lines growing at the pump, the time may have come for the government to address the serious problems with its oil system.



Trucks line up at a gas station in Sichuan Province.

Shepherd Zhou/CFP Photo

The country is facing renewed pressure over diesel shortfalls.

This time, it can hardly be blamed on a price hike.

The National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning agency, slashed retail prices for gasoline and diesel by 300 yuan (\$46.88) per metric ton on October 8.

The decrease was the first drop in oil prices during the past 16 months.

"But I can't get any diesel since the price cut," said Lin, the manager of a private petroleum company and four filling stations in Zhejiang Province.

"All four fuel stations have completely sold out. We have no diesel available at all," Lin said.

Lin said he is deeply concerned about the diesel shortages, as he is losing 10,000 yuan each day in his failure to provide fuel.

The shortages, common in wealthy areas along the south and east coast, appear to be spreading inland to Anhui, Sichuan and Hubei provinces.

Lin is not the only private gas station operator facing a crisis.

Zhao Youshan, chairman of the Commercial Petroleum Flow Committee of China, said every privately-owned station in Inner Mongolia is struggling to get shipments from the refineries.

Tens of thousands of private gas stations across the country have halted or capped sales since the price cut.

Diesel users are also being pinched by the short supply. In the central city of Wuhan, truck driver Hu Shuisheng returned from what should have been a four-day trip to Shandong Province.

"The trip stretched to six days because so many filling stations ran out of diesel that I had to wait overnight until they resupplied," Hu said.

PetroChina and Sinopec, the country's two largest oil suppliers and refiners with a domineering 80 percent of the market, have often been blamed for fuel shortages.

Chinese media and industry experts accused the two state-owned oil companies of stockpiling diesel to pressure the

government to raise prices.

The two oil suppliers have denied the allegations, saying their refineries are operating at full capacity and they are not rationing oil.

According to data from Sinopec, retail sales of diesel averaged a record high of 280,000 metric tons per day at the company's sales outlets nationwide.

Statistics provided by PetroChina also showed that the company tried its best to ensure supply. The refiner's daily output of processed oil products rose 8.5 percent from one year earlier to reach 267,000 metric tons this year.

State-owned oil companies should shoulder the responsibility of ensuring supply as they have a monopoly on oil imports, said Lin Boqiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University.

"Privately-owned filling stations account for more than half of the country's total number. If their diesel supplies run low, how can state-owned oil companies claim that they have guaranteed sufficient supplies?" Lin said. (Xinhua)

Analyst insight

Who's to blame for the shortage?

By Huang Daohen

To those lining up at the stations to get their cars filled, the last price hike is to blame for current oil shortage. Some are calling for further price cuts on domestic oil.

But a lower price would not be good for everyone.

Zhao Xiao, a local economics professor, said the country is seeing a revival of double-track crude pricing, which has long insulated the domestic market from global shifts and reduced the profits of crude oil providers.

But history has shown that once crude oil providers start losing money, the market becomes a mess, Zhao said.

Last year, China imported more than half of its crude oil. That number is expected to exceed 80 percent by 2030. Any attempt to maintain "price segregation" between China and the world may

worsen oil shortages or close more private gas stations, Zhao said.

Zhao said the country's pricing mechanism for the oil market remains a major roadblock to the industry's development.

Under the latest pricing system introduced last year, domestic oil product prices are only adjusted when the average price of crude on the international market shifts more than 4 percent within 22 working days.

But in this fast-changing economic world, the market requires a more elastic price that is tied to the global market, Zhao said.

For the 48,000 private gas station owners across the country, price isn't the top concern. What they want is free access to domestic oil distribution channels and the right to refine and import oil.

Currently, PetroChina and Sinopec have a near duopoly on refining. The

two oil giants refined more than 90 percent of the country's total oil last year.

When other oil companies are unable to increase their capacity, there is no room for competition, Zhao said.

The US, which has more independent oil refineries and gas stations, has a comparatively lower retail price for fuel. "This is no coincidence, but a result of competitive pricing," Zhao said.

Meanwhile, Zhao said the restrictions on private oil refineries need to be gradually removed, and they should be allowed to choose their own channels of distribution.

But this would put them in conflict with the business interests of the central and local government, as well as other companies and oil users, Zhao said.

"With this new oil crisis, it is time to admit there are serious flaws in our oil system," he said.

Market watch

Why is Walmart into tourism?

By Huang Daohen

US retail giant Walmart recently announced a high-profile move into the Chinese tourism market.

The new plan, a cooperation with the domestic China Youth Travel, would make Walmart a seller of travel services such as car rentals, hotel reservations, flight bookings and package trips via its supermarkets, community stores and Sam's Club.

A senior official with Walmart China told *Beijing Youth Daily* last week that the first batch of such travel centers will open at the chain's Beijing locations. Shoppers at those outlets will be able to purchase discount travel products.

China Youth Travel may have a good reason for signing up for the deal, as the agency would see more business by attracting customers from Walmart.

Potential shoppers at Walmart stores are carefully calculated in advance, saving China Youth Travel the trouble of selecting sites, said Wen Yijun, market analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing.

Though it may seem odd for a traditional retailer to enter the travel business, Wen said it is an industry with a very positive forecast.

Chinese travel generated 1.3 trillion yuan in revenue in 2009 as millions headed out on vacation, according to figures from the National Tourism Bureau.

In 2010, the revenue from online flight, hotel and package tour reservations alone totaled 4.75 billion yuan.

But it's not all business.

Wen said the new deal may be part of Walmart's efforts to direct public attention away from its recent scandals.

Ed Chan, Walmart China's CEO for the past five years, resigned last Monday citing personal reasons. Many believe Chan's departure, along with that of Walmart's Senior Vice President Clara Wong, is due to the recent pork scandal.

The retailer was exposed for selling ordinary pork as organic meat and at a much higher price. Thirteen Walmart outlets in Chongqing were ordered to close down, and two of its employee were detained.

Correction

An article last Friday on this page about **Occupy Taobao** misstated the company of analyst Kang Yan. Kang is from Roland Berger, not Accenture.

The Good Samaritan's dilemma



A 2-year-old girl's death offered a lesson in humanity.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Wang Yue, the 2-year-old girl run over by two vehicles and ignored by 18 passersby in Foshan, Guangdong Province, succumbed to her internal injuries on October 21 and died after nine days in a local hospital.

Her death sparked discussion over whether there is moral responsibility for people to help those in danger.

Wang – known as “Little Yue” – lived with her parents, who run a hardware store, in suburban Foshan. On the afternoon of October 13, she was left unattended as her mother went upstairs to hang clothes on the second-floor balcony.

Minutes later, the girl wandered onto the street and was struck not once, but twice by cars, both of which sped away.

In the five minutes afterwards, street-side cameras caught footage of 18 different people who saw the girl on the street but did nothing to help.

Finally, Chen Xianmei, an old woman in her 60s, picked up the injured girl and ran for help. The girl was sent to a military hospital in Foshan for emergency rescue.

The incident provoked angry responses from local media and netizens who condemned the two drivers

and also all the passersby who left the girl to die.

This was not an isolated case.

Earlier this year, a young man who helped an elder who had fallen on the street in Nanjing was later accused of knocking the elder down. He was forced to pay compensation.

Incidents like this have made people very hesitant about helping strangers.

Many countries around the world have laws and regulations protecting those who help others – so-called Good Samaritan laws. Lots of countries also punish those who are in a position to help someone but choose not to.

After the Little Yue incident, Wang Yang, party secretary of Guangdong Province, said he was appalled by what happened and by the country's state of moral decay.

The provincial workers' union set up a foundation to reward those who help others. The maximum reward is 500,000 yuan. The union has promised to offer free legal assistance to Good Samaritans who find themselves wrongly accused of hurting those they were trying to help.

“We must rebuild the morality of the masses,” said Zhang Zhenbiao, vice chairman of the union, “and protect those Samaritans.”

The Little Yue incident has caught the attention of the State Council, the country's cabinet. The central government issued a notice to the nation to repair its morality as the country undergoes economic transformation.

The local district government sent 10,000 yuan to Chen, the woman who picked up the little girl. She insisted that what she did was merely normal behavior.

The two drivers who ran over the girl have been arrested and are currently awaiting trial and punishment. The girl's parents refused reconciliation requests and are prepared to bring lawsuits against them.

Most of the 18 people who ignored the girl have issued public statements apologizing to the girl's parents. Several went to the hospital where the girl was held and offered condolences there. They expressed hope that such a thing won't happen again.

Amid these developments, two more children were reported injured by vehicles this week. One was in Dongguan, Guangdong Province – a luxury sedan hit a 2-year-old boy playing on a pile of sand in a construction zone. The other incident happened in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, close to Beijing.

– Zhong Wendong, lawyer, criminal law committee, the Association of Lawyers, Guangzhou

Parents should be blamed

As the legal guardians of the 2-year-old girl, the parents, especially the mother, should be blamed. You should take care of your own daughter before anything else. How can you leave your daughter alone in the store while you go upstairs to hang clothes? This is the critical point people are forgetting. The parents are receiving sympathy, but it's also partly their fault. In a sophisticated and modern society, everyone should protect themselves and avoid troubling others.

– Lin Lin, netizen

Debate of the week

Green scarf for 'bad pupils'

The principal of a primary school in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province made a public apology over the weekend for judging its students by the color of their Young Pioneer scarves.

The school introduced green scarves, lower in grade compared with red scarves worn by the Chinese Young Pioneers, last month to motivate poor performers.

Teachers gave the green scarves to troublemakers and students with poor scores. But the practice has drawn criticism from both parents and educators who regard the green scarf as a modern take on the shameful “dunce cap.”

Many students took off their green scarves and hid them in their schoolbag as they left.

The humiliating practice has been stopped by local authorities.

Model's attempted suicide a PR stunt?

A young model who made posts on her Weibo last Saturday suggesting that she was attempting to commit suicide has been criticized by netizens as an attention-seeker.

At around 9 pm last Saturday, car model Su Wei triggered panic by posting five consecutive entries on her microblog, saying she was having problems with her boyfriend Li.

In the first two entries, Su claimed to be swallowing pills at home after complaining about Li, saying, “Sorry everybody, I really have to go,” and later, “I'm so dizzy, I finally know the feeling of death.”

The suicide news went viral and was shared thousands of times on the Internet, within just one hour. Many online users tried to persuade Su not to commit suicide, while a number of users rushed to the community soon to rescue the model.

Many netizens have denounced Su's suicide drama as hype. Su deleted the messages last Sunday and emphasized that she did not want to be famous for faking a suicide attempt.

Civil servant

assaulting parents

A civil servant in Shenzhen has been under fire for assaulting his parents.

A postgraduate from prestigious Peking University, Liao beat and injured his father in a dispute Monday, according to *Southern Metropolis Daily*.

The man's father, Liao Xiangguang, 59, said he was trying to persuade his son to repair a bad relationship with his mother.

The son repeatedly scolded and beat his mother, according to the father. Liao had beaten his wife as well, the mother said.

The cause is not immediately clear, but various sources say that the man is ashamed of his parents' poverty back in his hometown in Hunan and hates their speaking Hunan dialect in his house. (Agencies)

Comment

Punishments should be meted

At present, China has no laws to force people to help when they see someone in danger. Only regulations can encourage people to do so. It's a big deficiency in our legal system. In the US, if you do not offer help to those in danger, you might be sued for negligence. At the very least, you should make an emergency call – 110 in China for the police.

– Zhu Yongping, lawyer, Datong Lawyers Office

We should protect Samaritans

We are used to encouraging those who help by giving them praise and awards. But if they are blamed and wrongly accused, what can we do to

help them? We need to improve our national laws to protect them. If accusers can not give concrete evidence of wrongdoing, we should support the helper and punish the accusers.

– Wang Jun, professor of sociology, Peking University

Helpers must be helped

We should clearly state that helpers should be compensated, either through awards from the government or foundations. We need to rebuild a moral and sincere society. In the meantime, we need to condemn and punish those who skirt their moral obligations, as long as there is sufficient evidence to hold them responsible.



"Polly" is a *Golding Pearl No. 3* letterpress machine

By Chu Meng

Movable-letter printing, alongside papermaking, gunpowder and the compass, is one of the "Four Great Inventions of Ancient China." Invented by Bi Sheng during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) with clay and wood, movable-letter printing became the prototype of the contemporary letterpress.

In the 15th century, it was introduced into Germany, where movable letters were improved by Johann Gutenberg into more durable metal. He later invented the letterpress machine, which dramatically reduced the cost and ease of printing.

The Gutenberg press, as it came to be called, spurred the European Renaissance and contributed to the industrial revolution.

And then, it became obsolete – or so it seemed.

In 2000, the letterpress underwent a revitalization of sorts in the US. And then, 10 years later, a teacher in Louisville shipped two 100-year-old antique letterpress machines to Beijing and opened the city's first letterpress studio, Paper Pounder Press, on Gongti East Street.

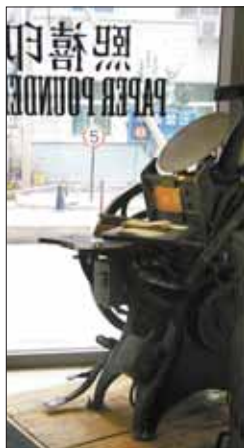
"When I was in Beijing I learned that the movable-letter printing machine or letterpress machine can only be found in warehouses or museums in China today," Josh Durham said in his two-story studio. "You know, this was the place they were invented."

"I, as a foreigner, brought them back after centuries. It feels a bit weird sometimes, like making a big curve in the time tunnel."

The studio is quiet, with ceiling-to-floor glass windows and doors. It houses three cold, black, iron machines and two cupboards of plates and letters. An exhibition shelf displays letterpress products of name cards, postcards, birthday cards, greeting cards, wedding invitations and other tailor-made press works.

"I do nothing except design and press," Durham said. Wearing a country-style peaked cap, jacket and pants, his disposition matches his antique products. He said his wife, who is Chinese, was the person responsible for studio operations and promotions.

The studio officially opened on July 11, a year after he quit his job as a history lecturer at a university in the US. He moved to Beijing in October with his wife and two daughters,



"Jenny" is a *Golding Jobber No. 7* letterpress machine

ters, ages 2 and 4.

Eventually he was joined by two bulky machines, which came via ship: the famous American-manufactured *Golding* letterpresses.

"Polly is a *Golding Pearl No. 3*," Durham said. "With a serial number of 994, she was manufactured in 1882. This treadle press operates by foot power and is as much fun to look at as she is to print on."

"Jenny" is a *Golding Jobber No. 7*. Its serial number is 2785. As all the "number 7" presses between 2755 and 2787, it was manufactured in January 1909. It was originally a treadle press as well, but when Durham came upon it, it has lost its treadle and gained a motor.

Durham also owns a *Peerless Gem* paper cutter, finished in 1900, and also an aged *Hamilton-type* cupboard. These were attained from junk markets and abandoned letterpress studios.

Most industrial machines in the 19th century were operated by hand through wheels. "Turn the wheel and see what happens," Durham said, demonstrating on



Josh Durham, the founder of Paper Pounder Press



Chinese traditional wedding invitation card Photos by Liu Yan

Jenny. All the parts ran smoothly without much noise.

Letterpress printing is the earliest form of printing text on paper. The process is as follows: use a movable type press in which a reversed, raised surface is inked, then press it onto a sheet of paper.

Different characters and fonts are stored in Durham's antique cupboard. Some are as big as lipstick, while others are as small as a toothpick, especially punctuation marks.

"I also bought a set of Chinese character types from a local private museum owner last year," Durham said. "Amazingly, they can also be used on *Golding* fellows. That's why we can print bilingual products. It's so important, for we can better meet the demands of local clients."

In order to enrich pattern designs and liberate handicraftsmen from the painstaking work of wooden board engraving, modern letterpress machines adopted flexography techniques. Under such techniques, pattern plates are flexible and 3-D, and made with

photosensitive polymer.

Durham said that means handicraftsmen can first go to a graphic designer to design a pattern on the computer. The pattern can then be printed on a flexographic press machine. Final products are pressed out through compatible letterpress machines through manual labor.

Li Cong, Durham's wife, pointed at works on the studio walls. She said their initial aim of moving back to Beijing was to provide their two daughters a Chinese language and culture environment. "However, for quite a long time in the US, after we both quit our jobs from the university, we had no idea how we would make a living and earn steady income," Li said.

At that time, neither she nor Durham had any knowledge about letterpresses. One day, they visited a friend who ran a letterpress studio out of her garage in Louisville. The two were deeply impressed by the fine texture of the patterns and letters.

"My husband is a pragmatist.

He began finding machines and taking short courses," Li said.

Because no machines have been produced in the last century, it took some work to find the proper equipment at junk markets and eBay.

Durham's bid won Polly on eBay. He flew to Boston to collect the machine from a factory – it took five hours to get it down five sets of stairs.

"You can't imagine how difficult it was to ship it to Beijing," Li said.

After settling in Beijing, it took the couple another year to find a suitable studio and apply for a business license. Their passion never waned.

While Li talked, Durham was busy working with Zuo Zuo, their graphic designer whom they found via microblog.

"He is a professional designer and has his own workshop in Shanghai," Durham said. "He decided to join us in Beijing after one email exchange. We share a vision for doing something meaningful and fulfilling. We're keeping history alive, and we make everything by hand."

People can either come in with a specific design in mind or choose from their templates.

Prices aren't cheap. One hundred copies of single-color business cards start at 888 yuan, 50 copies of A5-size invitation cards at 750 yuan, and wedding invitations at 20 yuan per copy. Each tailor-made flexographic plate is 180 yuan per color.

Obviously, there are plenty of other thrifter options, but here, Josh pointed out the value of the human touch. "You can watch me print from the window. Or you can print by yourself on the machine," he said. "The main perk is the tactile quality of the products. Look, you can feel the impression."

The couple is just getting started. They have plans to open a Taobao store and find retailers to stock their products in the near future. He hopes antique letterpress printing will take off in Beijing – a nearly extinct art form finding a new expression.

Papa Pounder Press – Josh's letterpress studio

Where: 2-101 Zhongguo Hongjie, No. 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday

Tel: 13811230049

EU-China boosts cooperation among youth

By Han Manman

The EU-China Youth Leaders Summit ended Monday with 92 young people from 27 EU countries engaging in dialogue with their Chinese peers on topics of climate change, sustainable development, the role of regional organizations and youth entrepreneurship.

An EU-China Youth Leaders statement was read during the closing ceremony urging the establishment of a mechanism for structured dialogues between young stakeholders, academics, the private sector, society and decision-makers from China and the EU. They want to follow policy discussions and monitor their implementation, ensure ongoing dialogues and raise awareness of common global challenges.

For participants from China and Europe, the summit was a great platform to learn about the other side's business environment and to find a potential partner for future business cooperation.

"I met a number of Chinese and European delegates and have found their thoughts and ideas to be very different



Young people from Europe have learned a lot about China through EU-China cultural exchange programs. Xinhua Photo

from business leaders in Bulgaria," said Ruman Rachkov, a delegate and CEO of game developer ThreeChess.com. "Although some countries are geographically close to us, their thoughts are a world away."

"Chinese enjoy a huge online game market and we really want to cooperate with Chinese online game companies in the future," he said.

"From the three-day event, I realized that the most important principle for cooperating with European entrepreneurs is effective communication," said Zhang Heng, CEO of Beijing Sanfo Outdoor Product Co.

Zhang said Europeans speak in a very direct way, so if Chinese entrepreneurs have questions or difficulties cooperating,

they should learn to ask directly. But compared with their relatively slow work pace, Chinese are very efficient.

"So both of us need a breaking-in period before starting business cooperation with each other," Zhang said.

The three-day summit, co-organized by the All-China Youth Federation and the European Commission, is one of the "flagship events" of the EU-China Year of Youth.

The year-long exchange activities include exchange visits, forums, seminars, debates, carnivals, summer camps and winter camps for the youth of China and EU countries. They aim to provide a platform for open communication, cultural exchange and learning experiences.

Mexican delegation to visit Chinese cities to promote agricultural products

By Zhao Hongyi

A delegation of 32 Mexican companies exporting agricultural and food products including pork, seafood, fruits, vegetables, coffee and tequila will visit China from November 1 to 15.

Led by Gabriel Padilla Maya, vice minister of agriculture and husbandry of Mexico, the delegation will visit Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian and Harbin to study each city's potential market.

"They will meet local government officials of commerce, hotel chains, supermarkets, restaurants and trade promoters to establish direct contacts and share benefits with the local Chinese buyers," said Dr. Efen Calvo Adame, president of the Mexico-China Chamber of Commerce.

The delegates are also expecting to contact agricultural producers and processors during their stay.

The delegation's plan took shape after the Chinese government authorized the commercialization and opened the door for Mexican pork imports earlier this month.

The delegation will also hold a grand pork tasting event on the evening of November 2, said Ralista Mirova, press officer of the Embassy of Mexico in Beijing.

The hosts have prepared Mexican pork, beverages, wines, fruits and coffee. The purpose is to demonstrate the high quality of Mexican food products.

"We expect our Chinese friends to feel the hospitality, flavor and warmth of the Mexican culture," Ralista said.

China is the major exporter of accessories and components of the processing industry to Mexico, while Mexico exports mainly raw materials to China.

The two countries are facing great pressure to balance their trade. Agriculture and food products is one of the few potential sectors in Mexico that can find a market in China.

Meanwhile, many Chinese exported commodities are facing anti-dumping tariffs, said Zhang Shanli, Chinese counselor in Tijuana, Mexico. He and his consul are persuading Mexican importers to work on this issue.



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2011年10月27日
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Dining for a good cause

By Annie Wei

The third Chi Fan for Charity (CFFC), a dining event, has been scheduled for next Saturday. CFFC events combine good food with good intentions, great people and general fun.

Every year, CFFC invites restaurants to prepare a special menu and pair it with a wine. Table hosts include some of

the city's better-known expats, including Tom Pattison, who started Affordable Art Fair in 2006, Dominic Johnson-Hill, founder of Plastered T-shirts, and Alan Wong, one of the first restaurant owners in Beijing's expat community.

Each seat costs between 500 and 1,000 yuan, and each restaurant has 10 to 20 seats.

Wangfujing Hilton joined last year's CFFC event. Verena Wogatai, director of business development, said it was a good experience.

The restaurant provided a private table in its Vintage Bank Wine Cellar and got an excellent response.

This year, all proceeds will go toward Bethel Foundation

and New Hope Foundation.

Last year, CFFC partnered with 32 restaurants and raised 225,000 yuan. It hopes to raise 300,000 yuan this year.

On the same day, CFFC will launch an identical event in Shanghai for the first time.

A few tickets are still available. Those interested should check chifanforcharity.org.



Bethel China Foundation is an NGO that helps visually impaired children.

Photo provided by Bethel China Foundation

Bethel China Foundation

French couple Guillaume and Delphine Gauvain founded Bethel China Foundation in 2002 as an orphanage for the blind. It has 46 children, the youngest being only a year old.

The foundation's primary task is to collect more money for the children to develop their skills and seek opportunities for them.

The organization is also making an effort to make money on its own, like selling organic eggs and vegetables.

New Hope Foundation

Robin and Joyce Hill opened New Hope Foundation in 2000 to take care of abandoned children and provide them a foster home. It accommodates 56 babies and helps put children into other foster homes around Beijing.

Event

Fully book project at Tushuguan98

Library Tushuguan98 is asking readers to donate books of any kind. The library is also soliciting recommendations and reviews, which might appear on its website.

Where: Tushuguan98, 53 Gulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 11 am - 11 pm, every day except Wednesday

Tel: 8400 1532

Price: Free

Hiking: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Silver Pagoda Forest

The hiking trip will include a lunch at a local farmhouse and exploration of Huairou's pagodas dating back to the 15th century.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: Saturday, 8 am - 6 pm

Tel: 8404 4166

Price: 300 yuan (260 yuan in advance) - including transportation, guides, entrance and lunch

(By Wei Xi)

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City attempts to consolidate taxi calling services



The taxi queue at Beijing Railway Station extends all the way into the building.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is trying to build a unified platform for monitoring and calling taxis. Within two months, people may be able to call a taxi using one number from anywhere in the city.

Beijing has more than a dozen taxi service companies, with nearly 70,000 vehicles on the streets. Big companies include Silver Construction, Beijing Auto and Capital Auto.

These big companies have their own calling services

and phone numbers. But the service is not ideal because it lacks proper supervision and doesn't have a complaint center.

Alice Zhang, a senior consultant of a financial service firm, complained that it's hard to call a taxi.

One time, Zhang was in a hotel in the western suburbs, where taxis seldom drive. She called a taxi after her interview to take her downtown. When the taxi failed to show

up after three hours, she had no choice but to book a room and stay the night.

Zhang's story is not unique.

Locals are used to getting taxis on the street rather than booking by phone. The calling service can be an inconvenience – for drivers as well.

"Once, I received an order to pick up a customer in Yangqiao on South Second Ring Road," a driver named Cao from Silver Construction said. "But when I arrived from

my home, which is up at Sixth Ring Road, he declined because his company would not reimburse him for the cost. But it was a big loss for me!"

Silver Construction receives nearly 10,000 calls for taxi service each day, but only 1 percent are fulfilled.

The municipal commission of transportation is determined to consolidate the management and supervision of the public transportation service in the capital. The platform will mon-

itor every taxi on the street.

"We'll inform the taxi closest to the customer to pick him up after the call comes in," said Zhao Qisheng, deputy director of the department.

"We can find the identity of the taxi in our monitoring system," he said. "If a driver does not offer his service, we'll punish him with a fine, or confiscate his license, and send him back to traffic school."

For taxi calling service, please dial 96103 or 961001.

International walking festival invites registration

By Zhao Hongyi

The fifth annual Beijing (Changping) International Walking Festival is set to open on November 5. The organizer is inviting interested individuals to register and participate.

The 16-kilometer trail follows the Ming Tombs Reservoir, an ancient relic site surrounded by beautiful scenery. This place was where the triathlon and long-distance competitions were held during the 2008 Olympic Games, and also hosted the International Triathlon Championships this year.

Each participant will receive a vest from the organizer at the starting line, in red, blue, green and orange, symbolizing "higher, creative, peaceful and tolerant," according to the organizer.

New to this year's event are two 300-meter stretches at the 4- and 10-kilometer marks, where participants will walk backwards, which experts believe is a very helpful and effective exercise.

At the 8-kilometer mark is a kilometer-long stretch where participants are invited to walk hand-in-hand with someone else to strengthen trust and friendship.

There are four checkpoints along the 16-kilometer route, said Qi Zhiguo, secretary of the event. Participants have to collect four rubber confirmation rings to prove they have finished all the walking.

At the finish line, organizers will present participants with a certificate and other souvenirs. More than 10,000 people are expected to participate.

Walkers will also be asked

to join in a clean-up campaign, picking up trash along the way. Volunteers with plastic bags will be stationed along the route.

"We want to make walking an exercise rather than a competition," Qi said. "We invite participants to bring their family together to participate, making the event a carnival."

The walking festival originated from a Sino-Japanese youth walking festival first held in 1981. In 2003, the Beijing Communist Youth League and Beijing Youth League opened the festival to everyone.

The Beijing Walking Festival has been held four times. Each time, the event has attracted at least 10,000 participants.

Five ambulances will be at the ready in case of emergencies. All participants will be insured.



Changping is a nice suburban area for walking. CFP Photo

Changping is a district in the northern part of the city famous for its apples and strawberries, which are harvested in autumn. The walking festival is part of the long-running Changping Apple and Strawberry Festival.

Changping is also famous for its scenery, which explains why ancient royal families chose this area to put their tombs.

The district is developing its IT industry and inviting IT enterprises to settle down. It is also trying to attract new universities and inviting established schools to put

campuses there.

Time: November 5, 9 am – 2 pm

Where: Ming Tomb Reservoir

Getting there: Take subway Line 13 to Xi'erqi station, change to Changping subway line and head to Nanshao, then take Bus 643 to its terminal.

Or drive on Badaling Highway to Changping main street, then turn east. The reservoir is at the northeast.

Register at the appointed six outlets of Taikang Life Insurance in downtown Beijing, or visit apple.bjcpn.com.

Tel: 5914 7861 / 8974 1642

By He Jianwei

Chinese comics were popular for generations. That all changed with the Japanese animation invasion of 1978.

Since then, Chinese youth have been raised on a diet of comics and cartoons produced in the land of the rising sun.

A consequence of this is that many young comic artists today have come to imitate the Japanese style: exaggerated physical features such as big eyes, big hair and gangly limbs.

More than 200 comic artists from 22 countries and regions gathered in Beijing at the 12th International Comic Artist Conference (ICC) last weekend. Both veterans and young artists showed their creations, telling Chinese stories in a unique style.

The Shougang workshop was bustling last Saturday. Rather than the sounds of roaring engines as in years past, this day the noise came from the crowds.

From the outside, Shougang appears to be an abandoned factory with cracked windows. Inside, it was a carnival of comic lovers carrying scroll art of their favorite characters like Astro Boy, Detective Conan and Garfield.

The Shougang Group terminated its operations in Shijingshan District last year and moved all the iron and steel production out of Beijing. The municipal government plans to turn the old factory into an animation and game development area.

The main hall exhibited more than 3,000 works, including original art by international cartoonists, ICC prize-winning works and Chinese strips.

The exhibition was a panorama of six decades



Display of anime-style local artists

Comics with Chinese Spirit



CFP Photos

of Chinese comic creation, from the first generation of comic artists after the revolution to a handful of young stars.

When talking about the famous Chinese animated films, most young adults think of *The Monkey King*, a film adapted from the novel *Journey to the West*. In it, the monkey Sun Wukong rebels against the gods and goddesses when he is offered the lowly job of heavenly horse keeper by the Jade Emperor.

It aired as two episodes in 1961 and 1964 and was created by Shanghai Animation Film Studio. The film went on to play in 44 countries and regions and won several international awards, including at the Czech Republic's Karlovy Vary International Film Festival of 1962 and the London International Film Festival of 1978.

The film represented Yan Dingxian's work in 1965. The film was designed and partly drawn by Yan Dingxian. In creating a vivid Sun Wukong, he sought advice from a stage actor who adapted the mannerisms of monkeys for his performance.

As the former president of Shanghai Animation Film Studio, Yan is one of the first to receive comic training after 1949.

Born in 1936 in Shanghai, Yan loved drawing when he was a child. In the 1940s, Shanghai was the first city in China to receive American animations.

"One of my favorites was Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. At that time, we did not have our own animations, so I decided to study how they worked so I could create them when I grew up," he said.

After completing middle school, Yan enrolled in the Suzhou School of Fine Arts. He and his colleagues were the pioneers of the Chinese comic and animation industry, making their first cartoons with Chinese ink and watercolors.

"It was a challenging medium for animation. We hoped to make our own works free of the influence of American and Russian animation," he said. "But using ink and watercolors to create an animated film was at least three times as difficult."

Little Tadpole Looking for Mom, one of their

films, contained 15,000 to 18,000 frames. That meant that every 10 minutes of animation required between 5,000 and 8,000 paintings. "It was worth the effort, because it shocked the world's animation industry in the 1960s," he said.

But the fledgling domestic industry was crushed by foreign comic artists and animators after the economic reforms of the early 1980s.

"Many Chinese kids came to prefer Japanese animations, and young students begin to imitate their style. The result was that few high-quality Chinese creations were produced in the 1990s," he said.

Unlike Yan's generation, the younger generations of comic artists learn drawing on their own in their teenage years and move on to become full-time artists later.

Xiong Liang is one such artist.

Both his story narration and pictures ooze charm. Drawing inspiration from Chinese fables and ink and water paintings, he contrasts the real and the imaginary in his works. One of his best was *A Little Stone*

Lion, a whimsical and inventive tale of a stone lion that guards the collective memory of a small village.

Born in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province, Xiong discovered comics in newspapers and magazines when he was 14. He began drawing his first story the year he started middle school. Before graduating from middle school, he had drawn a story that spanned hundreds of pages.

In the early years, his style was very European. He drew illustrations for classical books, such as Andersen's fairy tales.

After that project, Xiong started searching for a "Chinese style" for comics. "I felt strange. I had grown up in an ancient town full of narrow lanes near a river, but I was drawing European gardens," he said.

He visited Quanzhou, Fujian Province and saw many stone sculptures, including stone lions. When he returned to Beijing, he decided to make a book in which the main character was a stone lion.

After he finished *A Little Stone Lion* in 2002, no domestic publisher was interested in publishing it —

the prevailing wisdom of the industry was that Japanese style sells.

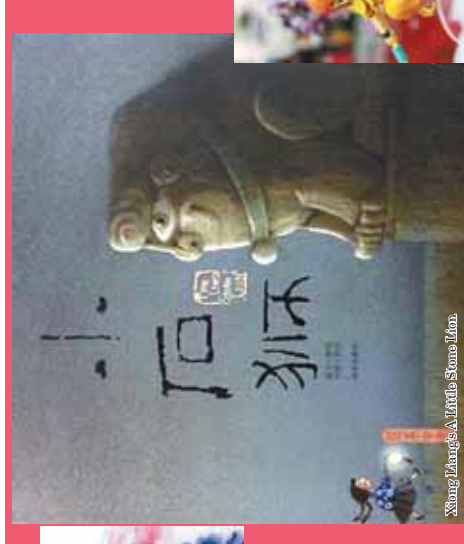
In 2004, a Taiwanese publisher bought the rights to his book. After its publication in Taiwan, it won the award for Best Children's Book in 2005.

One of his important series since then has been *Wild Child*, one he created for rural children. It was inspired by "My Ideal," a short article written by a rural primary school student: "I want to be a famous doctor who can cure illnesses and save his patients."

Since Xiong had studied in a rural primary school, he decided to make a book for rural children.

After graduating from middle school, Xiong worked in a factory. He once was a migrant worker in Shenzhen and many of his former colleagues continue to labor there. "I live better than them only because I'm able to draw. I hope my books can give rural children confidence and hope for their future."

At the 12th ICC, Xiong released his newest work, *Jinggang's Teacher*, the story of a teacher living on a remote mountain who explores the meaning of life.



Xiong Liang's A Little Stone Lion



Little Tadpole Looking for Mom



The Monkey King

Jobs in translation

By He Jianwei

The authorized biography of Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson was released Monday in the US. The Chinese version of the book arrived at bookshelves in more than 30 bookstores in 21 cities at 10:05 am.

The release hour was chosen to honor the date of Jobs' death.

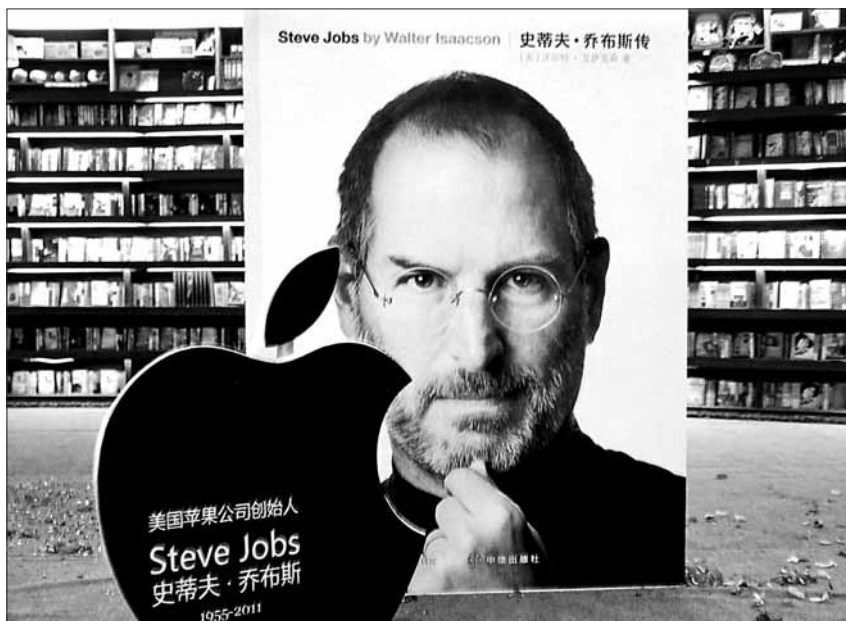
The new biography, compiled from more than 40 interviews with Jobs during the past two years, offers a comprehensive and insightful look into the life of a technology visionary.

China Citic Press, which obtained the rights to the Chinese version, began collecting translators in July.

The hiring notice published at popular translation sites, such as Yeeyan.org and Dongxi.net, drew more than 400 applicants. By July, four translators had made it to the final round of selection.

For the first round, they had to translate a paragraph from Alan Deutschman's *The Second Coming of Steve Jobs*; for the second, it was a paragraph about the culture of the 1960s from the authorized biography.

From September 2, the four translators began their work. The book, originally slated for release on March 6, had its date bumped suddenly when Jobs died on October 5.



The Chinese version of the authorized biography of Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson was released on Monday.

The translators finished more than 500,000 words of the translation in five weeks. Due to confidentiality agreements, the book's public release will be the translators' first look at the complete work.

Many readers have expressed concern about the quality and consistency of the translation due to the compressed time frame, the presence of four translators' voices and their amateur background.

"It is mission impossible for us. We only received the final chapter of the original book on September

20," said Zhao Jiamin, founder of Yeeyan.org and Dongxi.net.

"Considering the time demands, we had to choose four translators. In previous books, we always followed a policy of one translator, one book, such as when we translated Kevin Kelly's *Out of Control* and George W. Bush's memoir *Decision Points*," he said.

"For a non-fiction work, it is out of the question to have multiple translators working on one book. We invited professionals to proofread, so the translation came out to be of

very high quality."

On the Web, netizens posted their own translations of a paragraph excerpted from Jobs' love letter to his wife written some 20 years after their marriage.

Compared to the original translation, the netizens employed uncharacteristically flowery speech.

"We had different translations for the letter, but we chose the one with plain language, because the original work was written in plain language," Zhao said.

The translator of this chapter, Wei Qun, said if she could translate it again she might revise it, but the language would still be plain.

"Many readers mistook this as a youthful love letter. They didn't

read the whole book to know more about Jobs. A love letter written after 20 years of marriage can hardly have the same passion and excitement as one written in the youth," Wei said.

After the launch of the book, the publisher initiated an online campaign to invite readers to improve on the translations. "This version will not be the last. Every reader can point out mistakes. If we agree, we will make changes to the second edition," Zhao said.

The event will end at the start of 2012.

CFP Photo

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Man or woman? Mad about... sing notes

Fusing fashion and the canvas

By He Jianwei

Leading fashion designer Guo Pei has always been one for surprises.

At a 2006 fashion show, she introduced a 50-kilogram skirt decorated with white and red crystals. In 2009, she showed off a six-meter-long fur cloak and her models wore 35-centimeter-high heels.

This year, Guo is holding her first contemporary art exhibition with the collaboration of a Belgian visual artist and jewelry designer.



Souls



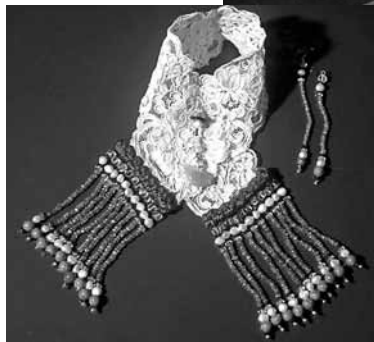
Meeting



Love, a painting by Emile Maeyens and dress by Guo Pei

Photos provided by Red Gate Gallery

Jewelry design by Jehanne de Biolley



Souls



designer and a mother of two daughters.

"Every little girl has dreamed of wearing a fabulous dress and having a stunning wedding ceremony," she said. "Although reality does not always turn out that way, we can still dream."

And dream she does in her studio: Guo's haute couture is augmented with a distinctly baroque air by her decorations.

She opened Rose Studio in 1997 to focus on her Chinese haute couture designs. She is part of China's first generation of fashion designers and is known for her breathtaking and precisely-detailed dresses.

Born in the 1960s, Guo has spent most of the last 20 years as an active member of the fashion industry.

"When I was in college, we did not really have any concept of 'fashion design.' It was just something that a tailor did," Guo said.

Guo said she believes her talent has helped her a lot. As a baby, she selected a pencil from the objects she was presented at a traditional zhuajiu session, where parents attempt to divine their child's future

ambitions.

"My parents told me I drew something that resembled a portrait when I picked it up," she said.

In primary school, Guo began to make simple clothes. She made a sleeveless shirt with a wide and deep collar and was praised by her neighbors for the innovation. "The designs in the 1970s were very simple and dull. Only clothing alterations were hailed as creative," she said.

Driven and focused, Guo is known for being able to remember the fine details of whatever she sees — of course, any associated names or figures are quickly forgotten.

"I couldn't remember my husband's family name when we fell in love, so I leave those kinds of details to my husband. He's good at that," she said. "I can spend 40,000 hours over five years with my staff working on one dress. I never feel tired when I make haute couture," she said.

Many of her designs challenge the limitations of length, width and weight, and also of the imagination. Her heaviest dress weighed 250 kilograms and was decorated with 300,000 pearls. Her longest cloak was more than 15 meters.



Chinese Style by Guo Pei

Inside the city's Dongbianmen Watchtower is another world: while the city's final ancient tower is protected on the outside by brick and tile, its interior is a lavish collection of oil paintings, jewels and costumes.

The collection is part of *The Art of Splendor*, an exhibition presented by artist Emile Maeyens, fashion designer Guo Pei and jewelry designer Jehanne de Biolley. The exhibition integrates Guo's designs with four paintings by Maeyens.

After an initial exchange of ideas, the artists worked separately, but Guo proposed bringing their works back together. A woman in Maeyens' oil painting *Love* wears Guo's skirts knitted from gold thread.

"I love Maeyens' painting. The tender looks of the women he paints always touch me. Each looks like a fairytale," Guo said Monday afternoon at the opening ceremony in Red State Gallery.

Most of her inspirations come from fairytales. At a show in 2006, she designed a princess costume adapted from Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*. Three years later, she presented 16 pieces inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*.

Guo is fascinated by fairytales, both as female

Release your inner ninja at city's only samurai store



By Annie Wei

Beijing has many small stores that you might not find without some insider knowledge.

This week, *Beijing Today* would like to introduce a speak-easy-type store that sells Japanese blades, including antiques that cost a fortune.

Iaido, a Japanese martial art that perfects the way of quick-drawing a sword from its scabbard, has a small number of practitioners in Beijing.

Zhang Lin, 32, a senior practitioner, got into Iaido when he was in college. He opened an antique sword store in 2006.

Zhang now visits Machida, a small town near Tokyo, once a year to further his study. "Iaido is like any other thing – Chinese painting, writing or chess," he said. "You need to persist in learning it."

Very few people know about Iaido or the history of Japanese swords, but many Chinese men are interested in possessing such a weapon and displaying it in their study, Zhang said.

The swords come in three sizes: a long one called tou or katana, short ones less than 60 centimeters called a wakazashi, and even shorter ones – less than 30 centimeters – called a tanto.

Zhang's store includes swords that curve both up and down. "The swords with curves facing up were popular before 1390, and the Japanese army used them during World War II," Zhang said.

The swords are historically bound with samurai culture. Zhang said there was a time when only samurai were allowed to carry swords: a long one and a short one. Some wealthy businessmen were also allowed to carry wakazashi.

Some swords in Zhang's store are expensive, costing up to 400,000 yuan, and are very limited in quantity.

Zhang said fewer than 300 people in Japan are licensed to create swords now. Each part of a sword is done by an experienced worker who only focuses on that specific part.

One particular sword in the store is 700 years old, yet still shiny and sharp.

Zhang suggests not speaking when in the presence of this antique. "Your spittle might rust the sword," he said. In the old days, samurai observing their swords would hold them out at arm's length. "They also kept a piece of paper on their clothes, so when they held a sword and talked, they would cover their mouths with the paper."

The store also sells a traditional samurai outfit worn during war. It would make a tremendous Halloween costume this weekend.

A new, steel-enhanced outfit costs 5,800 yuan and weighs 10 kilograms.

To find out more about Iaido swords and the sport, contact Zhang at bj@kaneie.com. The Beijing Iaido group hosts two practice sessions every week.

Iaido practice session

Where: B3 Youth Activities Center, 159 Middle School, Fuchengmen Nei, Xicheng District

When: Friday, 8-10 pm; Sunday, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: 600 yuan per quarter

Tel: 13810272961



Samurai outfit, 5,800 yuan



Tsuha

Photos provided by Zhang Lin

Homemade Greek dishes ready to order (and make!)

By Annie Wei

Katerina Stai, a former Greek language professor, has been living in Beijing for three years with her family.

Although many modern Greek women don't cook as much as their parents, Stai said she loved cooking. "Cooking is a passion and cooking is creative," she said, "like art and painting are also passions."

She enjoys making food for friends and her husband's colleagues. "I can prepare dinner for 50 guests all by myself," she said.

When the Stais hosts a house party, her friends are always surprised by how delicious her dishes are. For a long time, they told her to start her own catering business.

She finally decided to give it a try: Greek Catering provides homemade, healthy and flavorful dishes for group parties.

"What I prepare for people is the same as what I make for my family," she said. The Stais are very concerned about the quality of their food, especially since their son was only three years old when they moved to China three years ago.

Stai makes three meals a day for her husband and son. All ingredients are handpicked. Vegetables are organic, and the milk is imported. She uses olive oil from Greece.

Here, she shares with *Beijing Today* three recipes for traditional Greek dishes.

To order from Greek Catering, please contact kstai.f@gmail.com



Katerina Stai, founder of Greek Catering, makes delicious home-made Greek dishes.

Photos by Jiang Jun



Photo provided by Google.com

Moussaka

There is a Greek saying that "love always starts from the stomach." This dish is normally prepared by women who love their families, not only because it takes longer time to prepare, but because the three layers of strong and intense flavors – minced meat underneath, eggplant in the middle and cream on top – is symbolic of one's strong passion toward the most important people in life.

The below recipe can be shared by eight to 10 people, and costs 540 yuan at Stai's catering.

4 big eggplants
1 kilogram potatoes
800 grams chopped meat
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup white wine
1 onion, chopped
1 cup tomato sauce
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 cup water
1 cup grated cheese

Salt, pepper Ingredients for white sauce (Bechamel)

1 liter milk
5 tablespoons corn flour
2 tablespoons butter
2 eggs
Salt, pepper, nutmeg
Fry onions in olive oil until they turn brown. Add chopped meat, mixing constantly until mixture becomes crumbly. Add tomato sauce, wine, water, salt, pepper and parsley. Cover pan and cook for about half an hour over a low heat until all the liquid has been absorbed. In the meantime, cut the eggplants and the potatoes length-wise in slices about a quarter-inch thick. Salt them, let them strain in a colander and fry in olive oil. (You can also bake the eggplants and potatoes in the oven: the food will be lighter and healthier.)

Prepare a thick white sauce (bechamel) by first melting 2 tablespoons of butter and



adding 5 tablespoons of corn flour. Stir in milk gradually. Beat eggs. Add small amounts of eggs to milk mixture and continue beating. Add a little salt, pepper and nutmeg. Stir constantly and cook over very low heat.

Spread eggplants and potatoes in two rows in the pan and in between sprinkle a little grated cheese. Then evenly spread the chopped meat over the potatoes and repeat the same procedure once more. At the end cover with the bechamel sauce and sprinkle with more grated cheese on top. Bake for an hour at 220 C. Cool slightly, cut into squares and serve.

Pumpkin pie

At big Greek dinners, pie is an appetizer because Greeks prefer something a bit salty to start with.

Unlike pies we find in local markets that tend to be sweet and more American-style, the Greek pie, especially its crust, tastes more like a cracker and is a bit salty. The crust is called phyllo and delicious.

Not many people can make tasty fylo.

The below recipe is for 20 pieces. Greek Catering charges 300 yuan for this.

Dough for pastry sheet (phyllo)

500 grams flour
1 small cup (coffee cup) of olive oil
2 tablespoons of vinegar
1 cup warm water
1/2 teaspoon salt

Put the flour into a small basin and make a small hole with your fingers in the middle. Add olive oil, vinegar, salt and water. Mix the ingredients of the dough until smooth. Divide dough into 2 equal portions and shape into balls (one for each pastry sheet, up and down). Spread the dough and make a pastry sheet using a rolling pin.

Filling

1 kilogram pumpkin (only flesh, clean and grated)
200 grams feta cheese (grated)
200 grams edam cheese (grated)
3 eggs
1.5 cups olive oil (1/2 cup inside the filling, 1/2 cup under the first pastry sheet, 1/2 cup on the top of the second pastry sheet)

2 tablespoons of parsley
2 tablespoons of mint
Salt, pepper

Mix all the ingredients. Pour 1/2 cup of olive oil in the baking pan and spread the first pastry sheet. Add the filling mixture and spread the second pastry sheet on the top. Cut with a knife into small square pieces and pour 1/2 cup of olive oil over the pie. Bake the pumpkin pie in the oven at 200 C for 45 to 60 minutes. Serve either hot or cold.



Melomakarona (traditional sweet with honey and walnuts)

This is a traditional dry, sweet dessert for Christmastime. It also goes well with a cup of coffee or tea in the afternoon.

This recipe prepares 25 pieces, which cost 300 yuan from Greek Catering.

500 grams flour
250 grams olive oil, roughly 250 milliliters
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 glass orange juice
2 tablespoons cognac (brandy)
1/2 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
(100 grams walnuts, chopped and with some



cinnamon for more taste) Syrup

1 cup sugar
1 cup honey
1 cup water

Mix olive oil, sugar, orange juice and cognac together. Sift flour, baking powder, cinnamon and soda. Add the sifted dry ingredients to the oil mixture and knead gently. Pinch off

small portions of dough the size of an egg and form into little patties.

Roll them to make oblong rolls. Place on the baking tray and bake in moderate oven for 30 minutes. Boil honey, sugar and water for 5 minutes. Pour syrup over "melomakarona." Allow to soak for 2 to 3 hours, take them out of the syrup and place on large plate. Sprinkle with chopped walnuts and cinnamon.

Canadian musician with a Chinese heart

By Wei Xi

The first time Ember Swift set foot in China, it just felt right. This was somewhere she had never been, but it felt like home. She even gave herself a Chinese name: Zi Yu, meaning pureness.

Now, she has the first distinction of being a foreign singer to make the Chinese Rock Radio chart.



Swift, who has just completed a six-week tour in North America, recalls when she found out about making the China Rock Radio chart.

"I was very surprised when (my husband) Guo Jian called me from China two weeks ago to tell me," she said. Her song, Lao Wai (meaning "foreigner"), had just debuted on the chart, and her husband said she might have made history.

"Lao Wai" is a song that appears on Swift's recently released album *11:11*. It tells some common experiences of expats in Beijing, such as locals taking pictures of them, or being asked by servers whether they'd like forks and knives instead of chopsticks.

For foreigners, such treatment is painfully odd. "Foreigners from countries like the US and Canada are used to living among people of different skin colors," Swift said. "But in China, they are regarded as 'the other.'"

The song wasn't a complaint, though. It's meant to be funny, Swift said.

Born in 1974, Swift began writing songs when she was 9 and performing when she was 10. Her first album was released in 1996 when she was 22. *11:11* was her 11th album.

Swift's love for music has its roots in her family. "My mother sings well and used to play in a band before marriage," Swift said. "And my grandma and great-grandpa were also musicians who wrote songs."

Swift said she felt very fortunate to have been born in the 1970s, because

in her mother's and grandmother's day, women did not have much freedom to pursue their musical dreams – especially once they married.

"Some of my grandma's songs are very good, but few have been heard by others beyond my family," Swift said. Her latest album includes two of her grandma's songs.

As a child, Swift spent her allowance on tapes. "I listened to a lot on the radio as well. I listened to various music, from classical to rock," she said.

But Swift did not study music in college. Instead, she majored in Eastern Asian studies at the University of Toronto.

"I didn't go to a music college because I was also interested in language and culture," she said. "I figured I could always still pursue music without a music education."

She was correct.

Her beautiful voice won her fame and a following in North America. Swift even started her own music company, called Few'll Ignite Sound.

But just as her music career was beginning to develop in North America, Swift made the decision to move to China.

"When I was little, I had a strong interest in China and Chinese products like blue and white porcelain tea pots," she said. "I also easily learned to use chopsticks, and even my par-

ents said I was Chinese in my previous life."

Swift said when she finally set foot on Chinese land, it just felt right. "I had never been here, but it seemed like I belonged," she said.

That was in the spring of 2007, nine years after she had graduated from college.

"Many people used to ask me why I didn't come to China earlier," Swift said. "I still don't know. Maybe it was because I never thought my musical dream could be realized here."

Swift said she has many interests outside music, including reading, history and language. Making the

decision to pursue music after college was tough, because it meant she would have to start from scratch. The same thing would happen when she moved to China.

"The biggest difficulty was the language," she said. "After nine years of not using Chinese language, it was difficult for me to even talk to the taxi driver."

Swift said using the local language is very important when she sings. "Not many Chinese people speak good English, so if I only sing English songs, I will have to have an interpreter," she said. "But what I want is to express myself with my own voice."

"There was a time I felt nervous



Ember Swift 2009's album

and depressed. It was Guo Jian, my husband, who always comforted me, saying that I have already done well and encouraging me to learn more about Chinese people and Chinese culture before singing for the Chinese."

Swift put all her heart into learning Chinese, and it was during this time that she truly began making inroads into the capital's music scene.

"The musical circle in Beijing is very open and tolerant of me and my music," she said. "They even helped me organize my own band and have an album manufactured at a good Chinese factory."

Swift's current band includes Paplus Ntahombaye, a bassist from Burundi; Wang Yaqi, an erhu player from China; and Zac Courtney, an Australian drummer and percussionist.

Although Swift writes all the songs, she welcomes suggestions from her band mates. "I think a band is like a family, and we should allow everyone to express their creativity," she said.

"I don't have any big dreams for my future. I am quite satisfied with my career at the moment. But of course, I hope more Chinese people will love my songs."

Swift, who is pregnant, will perform one last time this year at Jianghu Bar before focusing on her maternity.

"I found a man I love in a place I've loved since childhood, and my music dream was also realized on this land," she said. "I feel everything seems to have been predestined."

Next performance

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: Sunday, 8:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6401 5269



Ember Swift (second from the left) and her band
Photos provided by Ember Swift

“Everyone has a dream, but only those with determination can realize it.”



Director Yan Yu

By Zhang Dongya

Gongtan, located on the east bank of the Wu River in Chongqing, is one of China's most popular “ancient towns.”

Each year, tourists flood in to snap photos of the 1,700-year-old town.

But the town people see today is 1 kilometer from the original site, which was flooded after the Pengshui Hydropower Station began operating in 2008.

Before the Flood II: Gongtan was screened at Wenjin International Art Center last Sunday. The film is a follow-up to Yan Yu's 2005 film *Before the Flood*, which introduced the world to the damaging effects of the Three Gorges Hydropower Station.

An ancient town turned tourist resort

The Wu River, a tributary of the Yangtze River and a major water source in Chongqing, once flowed beside Gongtan Ancient Town.

Today, a hydro-power station built upstream has all but halted its flow.

Yan Yu never thought much about the effects such damming has on local communities before he filmed *Before the Flood* in 2005. That project took the 40-year-old director far into the municipality's east to Fengjie County.

The government approved the Pengshui hydro-power project in 2004. Two years later, it began rebuilding Gongtan Ancient Town at Little Yintan, a site located about a kilometer downstream.

The relocation of the villagers began in 2007.

Yan arrived in Gongtan in November 2006 to record the city's final days. From his experience in Fengjie, he knew the locals would not be eager to leave.

“In 2005, there were no obvious conflicts when people were to make way for the station,” Yan said.

In the end, they all resolved not to move until the local government ensured their new homes would have dependable infrastructure, such as water and electricity.

But self-interest soon tore apart the villagers' union.

Ran Qicai, an old boat tracker, died when Yan first began filming in January 2007. The villagers, most of whom shared his surname, held a grand funeral service for him.

It was the last funeral in Gongtan.



Villagers were making way for the hydropower station in 2007.

Photos provided by Foggy City Studio

Soon after, the residents began to leave. People tied their furniture, refrigerators and TVs into neat bundles and carried them on their backs down to the trucks that would take them to their new homes.

Large excavators roared into the town, knocking down the ancient houses.

In May 2007, the director recorded footage of the ruins. Broken walls and shattered tiles replaced dirt roads. Two women walked the wreckage, looking for clusters of wild flowers that had popped up to replace the people.

“These plants can always survive,” one said as she took a handful of the pink flowers to their new home.

In October 2008, the new town was completed and named a tourist destination. Locals were encouraged to open stores, hostels and restaurants.

Yan said the ancient town changed completely.

“The quaint folk customs vanished and were replaced by a thick, commercial reek,” he said. “The relationships between people are different, too. Everyone is competing in business.”

The screening at Wenjin International Art Center was the film's first mainland appearance since being completed in 2008. It previously played at the Hong Kong Space Museum in 2009.

Yan said he sees the future of his film career in Chongqing.

“Chongqing is the largest municipality in the country, with 34 million people. More than 60 percent of them are engaged in agricultural population, which plays a major role in the country's development. As a native, I want to see and record how the area changes.”

Between his two documentaries, Yan cooperated with the Wuhan filmmaker Li Yifan in 2005 to found Foggy City

Studio in Chongqing, a project aimed to produce more documentaries about the mega-city.

His debut film won the Wolfgang Staudte Award at the 55th Berlin International Film Festival in 2005. It inspired director Jia Zhangke to create *Still Life*, a feature film about two people searching for their spouses against the backdrop of the Three Gorges Dam.

Yan served as deputy director of the film in 2005. The film saw Jia's status both at home and abroad raised when it won the Golden Lion at the 2006 Venice Film Festival. Both films have helped raise worldwide awareness about the dam.

He is now working on a new film about the migration of a factory in Chongqing. “Maybe this time I will be lucky enough to see the workers get what they are due,” he said. “The most important thing for me now is to be there to record all these things that are going to vanish.”

Wenjin International Art Center

Where: 3/F Wenjin Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, Hai-dian District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 13 to Wudaokou and follow Exit A. Walk to the Wenjin Hotel. Or take Buses 331, 375, 438, 628, 731 or 957 to Qinghuayuan. The center is by the south gate of Tsinghua University.

When: 4:30 – 7:30 pm, every Saturday

Email:

Tsingyingfilm@gmail.com



Gongtan, an ancient town with 1,700 years of history, has transformed to a tourist resort since its relocation.

CFP Photo

Getaways that will get you away from the tourist crush

By Zhang Dongya

While everyone heads to the Fragrant Hills this season, here are some activities that might help you keep away from the crowds: picking persimmons in an ancient town, scoping temples on mountains and hiking certain parts of the Great Wall. Read on for details.



A huge sculpture in Zhangfang Town is becoming the logo of the town.



This wall of persimmon painting is believed to bring fortune and happiness to Dayugou Village

CFP Photos

The persimmon harvest is the pride of Zhangfang Town.

Persimmon harvest in Zhangfang

Zhangfang Town, located on the bank of Juma River in the south-western district of Fangshan, is a big town known for its persimmons. Now happens to be the perfect time to pick them.

Zhangfang's history with persimmons can be traced to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). According to the county's annals, Zhangfang and Hetao in northwest Beijing have produced permissions since the reign of the Wanli Emperor. Zhangfang's were so good that they'd routinely sell out in Beijing's markets. People bought them to pay tribute to the royal family.

Zhangfang now is recognized as a production base for *mopan* (millstone) persimmons. The village Dayugou is called the "cradle of mopan persimmons."

Entering Dayugou, visitors will see red and orange persimmons everywhere, dotting green leaves and branches.

Villagers plant persimmon trees in their yards and in front of

their gates – there are more than 300,000 such trees in the village. They also decorate the walls of their homes with paintings of persimmons.

Most orchards in town – located along Zhouzhang Road – allow tourists to pick the fruit.

Deep inside the town, some bald persimmon trees have red fruits hanging over a river. The reflection forms a beautiful picture when seen against the nearby fields.

Visitors are also invited to check out the various sculptures around town.

They can also pick other kinds of fruit, such as kiwi, hawthorns, dates and peanuts.

Getting there: Take Bus 836 or 917 from Tianqiao station to Zhangfang.

Price for picking: 6 yuan per kilogram of persimmons; 20 yuan per kilogram of kiwi

Tel: 6133 9715

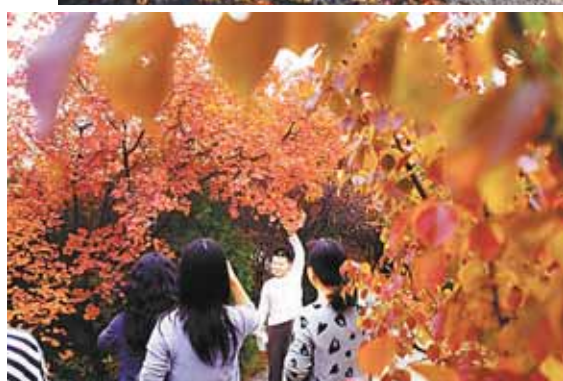
Note: Only two weeks remain for fruit picking at Zhangfang

Continued on page 21...

...continued from page 20



Mutianyu Great Wall gets covered with the red leaves in autumn.



More tourists are visiting Hongluo Mountain these days.



A tower on Mutianyu Great Wall



A corner of Yunju Temple

CFP Photos

Nearby attractions

Zhangfang Village

This village still has hints of the ancient culture of the Song (960-1279) and Liao (907-1125) dynasties. There is an octagonal pagoda that was built in 1116 and a preserved road built in the Song Dynasty that was used by the military. There is also an ancient theater here.

Yunju Temple

Located in Fangshan District, Yunju Temple is known as a treasure trove of ancient Buddhist culture. It was built between the late Sui (581-618) and the early Tang (618-907) dynasties as a storage place for scriptures etched into stone slabs by a monk named Jingwan. The temple features North and South pagodas which face each other and stone slabs inscribed with Buddhist scriptures known as tripitaka.

Getting there: Drive along Jingshi Expressway and take Liulihe exit. You will pass through Hancunhe and Changgou before reaching the foot of Shijing Mountain. Alternatively, visitors can take Bus 917 to the Liangxiang stop, then transfer to Bus 12, 19 or 31 to reach Yunju Temple.

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Admission: 40 yuan; 20 yuan for students, the disabled and senior citizens

Tel: 6138 9612

Hongluo Mountain

Situated in Huairou District, Hongluo Mountain now is covered with red leaves.

Although Hongluo Temple is buried deep within the mountain, it manages to attract many visitors and monks. It was first built during the Eastern Jin (316-420) dynasty and was restored in later dynasties.

In front of Mahavira Hall, there are two ancient ginkgo trees – one male and one female – that are more than 1,100 years old. The male tree is 30 meters tall and has a trunk diameter of 7 meters at the widest point. The tree “couple” stands brightly in the sun.

Passing through the temple, you can climb the mountain to avoid the crowd. Beside Hongluo Lake is a hill called Qin-

glong, or Blue Dragon. Tall trees grow here with golden-yellow leaves. Entering the traditional-style archway, a small path leads to the deep part of the hill. It's less crowded, so you can take a leisurely hike up while enjoying the many colors the surroundings has to offer.

Getting there: Take Bus 867 to Hongluosi from Dongzhimen long-distance bus station. Or drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway and take Beitailu exit. Drive in Huairou direction and go along Qingchun Lu to Hongluo Mountain.

Admission to Hongluo Temple: 40 yuan
Open: 8 am – 6 pm

Tel: 6068 1639

Mutianyu Great Wall

Autumn is the best time to travel, but you don't have to go far to see one of China's best attractions: the Great Wall at Mutianyu, which connects with Juyongguan in the west and Gubeikou in the east.

First built during the Northern Qi (550-577), the Mutianyu section is older than the popular Badaling section of the Wall. Rebuilt during the Ming, it is well-preserved with gentle slopes. There are more than 20 watchtowers that come in different shapes and sizes. Crenels are built in both the inner and outer walls, a style rarely seen in other parts of the Great Wall.

The vegetation around Mutianyu is very dense – 96 percent of the area, is covered with plants. Some are red, some yellow and some still green, a beautiful bit of coloration through which the Wall cuts through like a snake.

At some parts, hikers will get a splendid bird's eye view of the mountain. You can also take a cable car to and from the top.

Getting there: Take Bus 916 in Dongzhimen to Huairou Bei Dajie and transfer to 936-zhi to Mutianyu Great Wall.

Admission: 45 yuan

Cable car: 45 yuan for single trip, 65 yuan for roundtrip

Open: 8 am – 4 pm

Tel: 6162 6022

Men modeling womenswear

By Chu Meng

It is common for female models on the catwalk to be required to wear masculine womenswear. Occasionally, they are even called on to model men's collections. Many designers and fashion extremists say women look sexier and more enticing playing an opposite role.

What happened in Milan and Paris this August, however, was a first, and now it's spreading to Beijing.

Thin male models with blemish-free faces modeled women's clothing. The appearance of overtly feminine male models caused a commotion in almost every fashion circle overnight. Many say their androgynous appearance is attractive to both sexes.

Andrej Pejic is 188 centimeters tall. He has cascading blond hair, dewy skin, moody gray-blue eyes, full lips and a thin frame that is free of hips or breasts. He appears in the latest fashion photos in *Grazia Magazine*, which previously covered the Paris International Fashion Week.

In the photos, themed "Marilyn Monroe," his hair is curled and he wears red lipstick and drawn-on beauty marks. His poses half-naked.

What clothing he does wear is provocative womenswear, such as miniskirt and fishnet stockings.

"People can hardly tell he is a boy or a girl without reading the captions. However, he looks beautiful and emits an air of elegance," said Hou Saifu, a fashion buyer.

With a pale and narrow face and gaunt frame, Pejic is a professional model. He

strolls the catwalks with the confidence of experience and performs the abstract gestures and facial expressions needed to accentuate the designs.

"He is virtually indistinguishable from female supermodels who work the international fashion stage," said Yang Guanhu, a Chinese fashion designer with experience at runways both foreign and domestic.

There are few male models specializing in modeling womenswear. But in an industry long-obsessed with gender ambiguity, their faces are in high demand.

Fashion's taste in male models goes through cycles. More masculine models like David Gandy, Tyson Beckford and Paul Sculfor have been perennial favorites. But there is also increasing demand for androgynous models who can cultivate the curiosity of increasingly hard-to-satisfy fashion fans, wrote Anna Wintour, editor-in-chief of *Vogue*.

Among them, Pejic is the leader.

He was born in 1991 in Bosnia and grew up in Australia as a political refugee with his mother. He was discovered by a modeling agent while working in a McDonald's when he was 17, unsure whether or not the agent realized "she" was in fact a "he." In interviews, he claims to have experimented with having a feminine look since the age of 14.

This year, he was hired by Jean Paul Gaultier for the 2011 spring and summer runways shows in January.

"Pejic captivated the audience

during Jean Paul Gaultier's Paris show, dazzling the runway by modeling a series of wedding dresses. I remember I was shocked to learn the bride wasn't a woman at all. His effeminate look has been praised as brave and convincing by French fashion critics," said Tong Ying, the Chinese creative director of local menswear brand E-World.

Inspired by Pejic, Tong hired two effeminate male models for his 2012 Spring and Summer womenswear show in Hangzhou this September.

"The appreciation of beauty should be based on gut instincts that occur for only a moment. Besides, males and females should be given equal rights to choose how they present themselves," he said.

Since the Gaultier show, Pejic has appeared on a number of fashion magazines like *Vogue* and *Grazia* and on catwalks modeling for Chanel and Alexander McQueen, which offered him an incredible amount of money.

In May, he was the cover model for the New York-based *Dossier Journal*. Many readers mistook the image of him shirtless with his blond hair in curlers for a topless woman.

In September, he was ranked 18th on *Models.com*'s "Top 50 Male Models" and 98th in *FHM*'s "100 Sexiest Women in the World 2011."

The past decade has seen clothing gravitating toward the extreme,



Andrej Pejic, the 19-year-old effeminate male model



with more being cut for the tall and curveless bodies that most women, even models, don't have. It has left many women with an even more distorted concept of human beauty.

Pejic told *Grazia* in an interview that he has forced himself to live on the edge of starvation for most of his life to avoid developing a more masculine figure during puberty.

"Ironically, the clothes appear suitable for unusually lean men or even young boys. The androgynous male model might be a reflection of the times," Tong said.

"It's not limited to fashion circles. People are becoming more accepting of transgender personalities, gay marriages and gay adoption. So it's natural for a transgender person appearing on a catwalk modeling womenswear."

Yang Zijiang, a graduate from Harvard Business School, said his success is not just due to his beauty. It may have much to do with marketing and changing concepts in the creative industry eager for someone with Pejic's unusual look.

"When I went to the agency for the first time, I had no idea what modeling would be like. I assumed it would be better than a part-time job at McDonald's," Pejic said.

The new career has given him a chance to don the beautiful clothes he has loved since childhood. "And to be more philosophical about it, we are growing as a people and as races and as cultures, it's OK to not care what your gender is as long as you look great in clothes and feel great about yourself," he said.



Photo from Andrej Pejic's latest fashion shoot

Hotel

Brunei Ambassador at GMB by GC



The Brunei Embassy recently celebrated 20 years of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and China. As many as 330 people attended the event at the Grand Millennium, Beijing on October 18.

Ambassador Magdalene Teo (right) and Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports YB Pehin Hazair Abdullah were welcomed to the hotel by Gino Tan (left), general manager of Grand Millennium, Beijing.

Grand Millennium hosts China-Singapore Forum

The Singapore Forum, organized by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and East Asian Institute (EAI) and the National University of Singapore, drew some 50 VIPs to the Grand Millennium Beijing on October 19.

Professor Tommy Koh, chairman of the Centre for International Law and co-chairman of the forum, was received by Gino Tan, general manager of the Grand Millennium Beijing.

Pick your pillow at Swissotel

There's no underestimating the value of a good night's sleep.

In keeping with this timeless wisdom, Swissotel Hotels & Resorts is offering each guest his or her choice of the perfect pillow. Guests can select from a wide range of pillows on the a la carte pillow menu to ensure a deep, restful and relaxing sleep.

The Swiss Pine pillow has a soothing scent of resin and reduces night-time perspiration around the head and neck. The heat-regulating cotton-covered spelt pillow, filled with 1.4 kilograms of organic spelt, eases tension in the back and neck. Alternatively, the neck-support pillow offers optimal pressure distribution, supporting neck, head and shoulders and featuring temperature control.

These three pillows are available at all Swissotels, but some hotels are providing customers with even more variety. For



example, an anti-allergenic pillow made of 100 percent polyester and designed for guests with extreme allergies or asthma. For guests who prefer to sleep on their side, there is a body cuddler pillow which supports the head and takes the strain off the spine.

Mattress toppers for an extra soft sleeping surface are also available, as are local pillows depending on the country.

Airline



Jetstar launches guaranteed low fares from Guangzhou

Low-fare leader Jetstar is launching new direct daily services to Singapore from Guangzhou starting December 22. The new flight marks Guangzhou as Jetstar's 10th destination on the mainland.

Jetstar Asia Chief Executive Officer Chong Phit Lian said the airline's low fares and guaranteed price matching would give travelers through Guangzhou more affordable options in their travel.

"All Jetstar fares come with a price match guarantee, which means customers can be assured that the lowest fares to Singapore will be on Jetstar," Chong said.

"Not only can Guangzhou travelers now access the most affordable fares to Singapore, they can also choose to fly to Australia and New Zealand and connect on to Jetstar's domestic services. Passengers can connect to our expanding hub in Singapore, where we now fly to 26 destinations in the Asia-Pacific region," she said.

Connections include destinations such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Bali. A shuttle service to the nearby Malaysian city of Johor Bahru is also available free of charge to passengers holding a Jetstar ticket on the same day.

Rent

Dinning



Latino Fever @ Zeta Bar

Start your weekend with a bang at Zeta Bar's Latino Fever! Let your body move to the rhythm of the music while enjoying Cuban rum cocktails. Make your Friday more passionate at Zeta Bar!

The 50-yuan cover charge includes a glass of house wine or local beer

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5865 5000

Small, 2-workstation office available for 5,800 yuan

Register your small business on the top floor of this 5-A class office building. The building comes with all the equipment you could need, even cups and a coffee maker.

Tel: 13910578015

Email: ving.pan@innobizoffice.com

4-bed apartment in Park Avenue

Located on the top floor of Park Avenue, by the south gate of Chaoyang Park, this apartment has a terrace with a great view.

The unit comes with modern furniture, fine bedding and kitchen utensils. Interior décor includes pictures, carpet and curtains.

The apartment is bright, very clean and built to high standards. It will appeal to demanding customers who want more than a common flat. It comes with membership to a private club, gym and pool.

Tel: 13910511877

Email: lily@homes0.com.cn

5-bed Sky Villa duplex by Ciyunsi Bridge

This apartment is located in Oriental Rose Garden by East Third Ring Road, not far from China Central Place, CCTV New Tower and Guomao. It neighbors a Carrefour Hypermarket.

The top floor has a beautiful view, and the house resembles Sky Villa. It includes five bedrooms, a study room, three bathrooms and two storage rooms. The total area is 350 square meters.

Rent is 28,000 yuan per month, including heating and management fees.
Tel: 13693294779

(By Jackie Zhang)

Fri, Oct. 28

**Movie****Lo Spazio Bianco (The White Space, 2009)**

An unexpected pregnancy and premature birth gives Maria a burden she is unprepared for. Lacking control over events for the first time in her life, she retreats into an emotional space where she is alone, until the day arrives when she must learn to live again for her vulnerable child.

Where: Italian Institute of Culture, Sanlitun Dongyi Jie, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Nightlife**Ready for Sea**

Laoweiba, a punk and folk musician based in Guangzhou, is on his third tour in three years. After being an art teacher and a club manager, he founded a rock band in 1999 that has released five albums.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9:45 pm
Admission: 40 yuan, 30 yuan for students
Tel: 5900 0969

Sat, Oct. 29

**Exhibition****The Farewell Party – 11 Artists Exhibition**

This exhibition presents works by 11 artists who were born and raised in different places. The exhibition was born out of a dialogue from these artists, who each have their signature methods of creation.

Where: Jin Mu Shui Huo Tu Art Center, 103 Shang Pu Art District, Xiaopu Village, Tongzhou District

When: Until November 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Email: jmsht2011@sina.com

Drama**The Imaginary Invalid**

This Moliere work is presented by the Comedie-Francaise, founded in 1680 on the order of Louis XIV. Argan reigns over a court of corrupt and ignorant doctors who take advantage of his weaknesses, more interested in the idea of pleasing him than his health. The imaginary invalid is also under the thumb of his second wife, who, under the appearance of devoted caring, conceals the hope of inheriting as soon as possible.

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-500 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

**Nightlife****Mari Kimura**

Living in the US, this Japanese-born musician has dedicated her life to experimental music and is the first performer to use the electric violin, which was built for her in the 1980s. With her pioneering work in

computer music, she has opened up new sonic and expressive worlds of violin.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door
Tel: 6404 2711

Mon, Oct. 31

Exhibition**Daybreak**

This exhibition presents 72 pieces by 13 Chinese artists born in the 1970s and 1980s, including oil painting, photography, video, animation, performing art and installation. They draw their inspirations from history

and current issues.

Where: Arario Gallery, Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Anwai Beiyuan Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3800

Tue, Nov. 1

**Exhibition****Securities and Exchanges**

This exhibition presents the works of Walead Beshty. He happened upon his unique photographic process in 2006, when he accidentally let his film pass through an airport X-ray machine. The resulting film was a beautiful exposure of color and patterns that hinted, disturbingly, at "invasive elements" in the process of artistic creation. Since then, Beshty has developed a complete aesthetic vocabulary that explores the process of material deterioration as a motivating creative force in his artwork.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 20, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

Sun, Oct. 30



Wed, Nov. 2

Exhibition**Tale of the 11th Day**

This exhibition presents Yang Jiechang's latest work, extending the story of Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron*: 10 characters telling stories in 10 days while fleeing from the plague. On this 11th day, Yang paints a paradise, where all conflicts – whether religious, ethnic, ideological or political – have disappeared, and with that, the wars that tear societies apart.

Where: Tang Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9610

Thu, Nov. 3

Movie**The Birch-Tree Meadow (2003)**

Myriam is a Holocaust survivor. She grew up in Poland but fled to France with her family during World War II. As a teenager, she was deported to Auschwitz. As an adult, she returns to Paris for a reunion of survivors.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5900 9473

(By He Jianwei)

